IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 16-41.

Rewrite the pending claims and add new claims as follows:

1.   (Currently) A method of processing information related to documents in a collection of linked documents, the method comprising:

accessing a link log, the link log ~~comprising~~ that comprises a plurality of link records, ~~wherein~~ each link record ~~comprises~~ identifying a ~~respective~~ source document ~~identifier corresponding to a respective source document address~~ and a ~~respective~~ list of one or more target ~~document identifiers corresponding to respective target document addresses;~~ documents pointed to by one or more outbound links in the source document; the link record including a source document identifier for the identified source document and one or more target document identifiers for the identified list of target documents; and

outputting a sorted anchor map that corresponds to the link log and that ~~, wherein the sorted anchor map~~ comprises a plurality of anchor records, each anchor record identifying ~~comprising~~ a respective target document ~~identifier corresponding to a respective target document address~~ and a ~~respective~~ list of source ~~document identifiers corresponding to a respective list of source document addresses;~~ documents that contain links to the respective target document; the anchor record including a respective target document identifier;

wherein the plurality of anchor records are ordered in the sorted anchor map based, at least in part, on their respective target document identifiers; and wherein each respective target document identifier in the plurality of anchor records corresponds to a target document identifier in the link log.

~~wherein, for at least one anchor record, a document located at the source document address corresponding to a source document identifier in the list of source document identifiers contains at least one outbound link, the at least one outbound link pointing to a corresponding target document address, the target document address corresponding to the respective target document identifier for the at least one anchor record.~~

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1,

wherein each anchor record in the sorted anchor map further comprises a respective list of annotations.

3.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 2,

wherein ~~the at least one outbound link is annotated by an annotation, the~~ each annotation included in the respective list of annotations for ~~the at least one~~ a respective anchor record corresponds to a link in a respective source document that is listed in the list of source documents of the respective anchor record.

4.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein at least one entry in the respective list of annotations [[for]] of an anchor record in the sorted anchor map includes a text passage and a list of attributes of the text passage.

5.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the text passage is determined from text within a predetermined distance of an anchor tag in a respective source document that is listed in the list of source documents of the anchor record. ~~in the collection of documents.~~

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further including repeating the accessing and outputting so as to produce a layered set of sorted anchor maps.

7.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, further including,

when a merge condition has been satisfied, merging a subset of the layered set of sorted anchor maps ~~, producing~~ to produce a merged anchor map;

wherein the merged anchor map includes a plurality of merged anchor [[map]] records, each merged anchor record corresponding to at least one anchor record from the subset of the layered set of sorted anchor maps, wherein the merged anchor records are ordered in the merged anchor map based on their respective target document identifiers.

8.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further including outputting a sorted link map, the sorted link map comprising a plurality of link map records, each link map record comprising ~~a respective~~ the source document identifier and ~~a respective~~ the list of target document identifiers in an associated link record.

9.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, further including repeating the accessing, the outputting [[a]] of the sorted anchor map, and the outputting [[a]] of the sorted link map, so as to produce a layered set of sorted anchor maps and a layered set of sorted link maps.

10.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, further including

when a merge condition has been satisfied, merging a subset of the layered set of sorted link maps ~~, producing~~ to produce a merged link map;

wherein the merged link map includes a plurality of merged link [[map]] records, each merged link record corresponding to at least one link record from the subset of the layered set of sorted link maps, wherein the merged link records are ordered in the merged link map based on their respective source document identifiers.

11.　(Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein merging a subset of the layered set of sorted link maps further includes:

searching, within the subset of sorted link maps, for link map records containing a particular source document identifier; and

when a first link map record and a second link map record each contain the particular source document identifier,

if a particular target document identifier is contained in the list of target document identifiers in the first link map record and the particular target document identifier is not contained in the list of target document identifiers in the second link map record,

generating a delete entry in a record, the record comprising the particular source document identifier and the particular target document identifier.

12.　(Currently amended) The method of claim 11, further including

when an anchor merge condition has been satisfied, merging a subset of the layered set of sorted anchor maps ~~, producing~~ to produce a merged anchor map;

where the merged anchor map includes a plurality of merged anchor [[map]] records, each merged anchor map record corresponding to at least one anchor map record from the subset of the layered set of sorted anchor maps, wherein the merged anchor records are ordered in the merged anchor map based on their respective target document identifiers.

13.　(Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein, if [[a]] the delete entry has been generated, [[a]] the merged anchor map record containing the particular target document identifier in the delete record does not contain the particular source document identifier in the delete record.

14.　(Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the collection of linked documents reside on a plurality of computers interconnected by the Internet.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the collection of linked documents includes a first document and a second document,

wherein a document address of the first document contains information about a first host on an intranet;

wherein a document address of the second document contains information about a second host on an intranet; and

wherein the first host and the second host are distinct computer systems connected to one another.

16.   (Cancelled)

17.   (Cancelled)

18.   (Cancelled)

19.   (Cancelled)

20.   (Cancelled)

21.   (Cancelled)

22.   (Cancelled)

23.   (Cancelled)

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31.   (Cancelled)

32.   (Cancelled)

33.   (Cancelled)

34.   (Cancelled)

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37.   (Cancelled)

38.   (Cancelled)

39.   (Cancelled)

40.   (Cancelled)

41.   (Cancelled)

42.   (New) A method of indexing annotations associated with links between documents in a collection of linked documents, the method comprising:

generating a link log that comprises comprising a plurality of link records, each link record identifying a respective source document and a list of one or more target documents pointed to by links in the respective source document; and

generating an anchor map that corresponds to the link log and that comprises a plurality of anchor records, each anchor record identifying a respective target document, a list of source documents that contain links to the respective target document, and a list of annotations associated with the links in the source documents that point to the respective target document; wherein each respective target document identified in the plurality of anchor records corresponds to a target document identified in the link log; and

processing at least a plurality of the anchor records, including, for each anchor record in the plurality of anchor records, adding to a document index entries for terms in the list of annotations in the anchor record, wherein the entries are associated with the target document identified by the anchor record.

43.   (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the list of annotations in a respective anchor record comprises a subset of the text in the source documents listed in the list of source documents of the respective anchor record.

44.   (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the list of annotations in a respective anchor record includes a list of attributes for at least a portion of the subset of the text in the source documents listed in the list of source documents of the respective anchor record.

45.   (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the document index is searchable for documents matching specified search queries.

46.   (New) The method of claim 42, wherein at least one entry in the list of annotations of an anchor record in the anchor map includes a text passage and a list of attributes of the text passage.

47.   (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the text passage is determined from text within a predetermined distance of an anchor tag in a respective source document that is listed in the list of source documents of the anchor record.